

Bear Facts

Some facts about Simsbury and our bear population:

- Simsbury has recorded the highest number of bear sightings in the state of Connecticut: **337** from October 2007 to September 2008 (CT D.E.P.).
- Reported bear sightings in Simsbury has significantly increased since 2005. There are approximately 12-14 bears that roam in Simsbury.
- Black bears give birth in the months of January and February. The mother bear will remain with her cubs for 18 months.
- Mothers are particularly protective of their cubs which can cause aggressive behavior if they feel their cub is threatened.

Be Bear Aware

- Prior to hiking, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Hike in a group and keep children close at hand.
- Hike during daylight hours and stay on the trail.
- Be aware of your surroundings.



For more information please call:

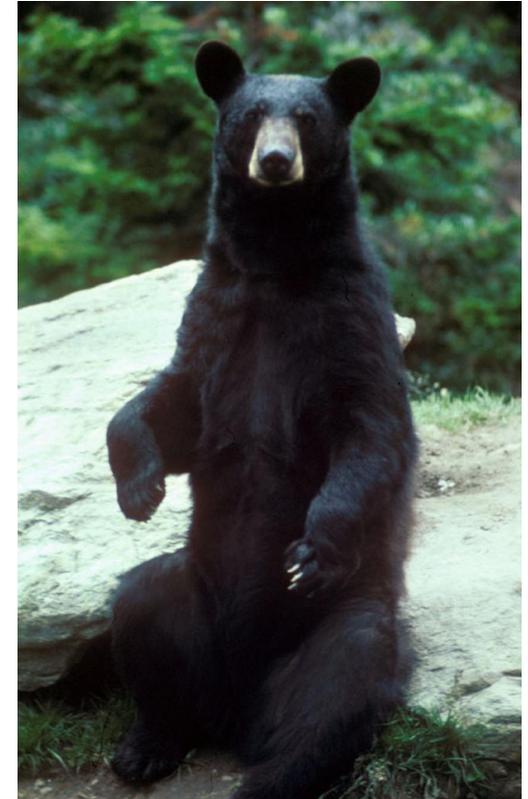
Simsbury Police Department (860) 658-3100

Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz
(860) 658-3110

Or visit us at www.townofsimsbury.com



WILDLIFE OF SIMSBURY



*A guide to enjoying Simsbury's wildlife
in a safe and responsible manner.*

KNOW THIS:

Bears, coyotes and bobcats rarely become aggressive. However, it is important to keep general safety precautions in mind.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- If you encounter or startle wildlife, make your presence known by making noise and waving your arms.
- Walk away slowly. **DO NOT RUN.**
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control. An encounter with wildlife could cause injury to your dog.

Remember. *Simsbury has a variety of wildlife. These are some general guidelines and safe precautions to follow in order to enjoy the wildlife in Simsbury.*

Spotting a Black Bear

The black bear is a stocky animal, with thick short legs. Adult males weigh from 150 to 400 pounds. A female can weigh anywhere from 110 to 200 pounds. Their fur can either have a shaggy or sleek appearance.



Black Bear Habits

Black bears have an incredible ability to hear. Their ears are twice as sensitive as the human ear and can hear a much broader range of frequencies.

Black bears are omnivorous. They prefer nuts, acorns, fruits, insects and succulent greens.

The woods, fields, and waterways in Simsbury provide a sanctuary to many different types of wildlife. In addition to very common animals such as squirrel, deer and skunk, the town is host to raccoon, fox, bobcat, coyote and bear. There is a notable increase in the number of bear within the last decade. Bear and other wildlife are pleasing to look at, but there are basic precautions that should be taken with all animals. Due to their size, strength and ability to habituate, bears present a slightly different challenge than other wildlife. These are some general guidelines for bear and other wildlife.

Don't Feed the Bears!

Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home will become "problem" bears. Bears are attracted to garbage, pet food, compost piles, fruit trees and birdfeeders.

- Keep garbage inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.
- Don't leave pet food outside overnight.
- Don't add meat or sweets to a compost pile.
- Make bird food and feeders inaccessible.

